expiring life, from having eaten and swallowed some of a root, of which I send you a sample.

"The history of the circumstances of the case, as accurately as I could obtain them, was as follows:—Between nine and ten o'clock A. M. of that day, two or three of the children of the family were observed to be eating certain roots which they had found in a ploughed field near the house, and which they supposed to be ground nuts, artichokes, or something that was innoxious. The boy first complained that he had pain in his bowels, and felt as if he had a call to a dejection, and was directed to go to stool; but very soon returned and said he could do nothing. In a few seconds he puked, and brought up, as an intelligent woman, who was present, told me, a teacup full of what she believes to be the recently masticated root. Upon questioning her particularly upon the point, she told me that the first impression made upon her mind after seeing the boy puke was, that the vomiting was occasioned by the root that he had eaten. Immediately after puking, he fell back in convulsions, which, with various remissions and exacerbations, continued till he died. A physician was directly called, who, believing the convulsions to be owing to the poisonous quality of the root which he had

eaten, endeavoured to excite vomiting, by administering what I supposed to be a solution of tartrite of antimony in water. I was told that the physician took his leave about one o'clock, having been unable to excite vomiting, and expressing an opinion, that the boy would continue but a few moments. I found the boy in a profuse sweat, and in constant convulsions. The convulsive agitations consisted of *tremors; violent contractions and distortions, with alternate and imperfect relaxations of the whole muscular system; astonishing mobility of the eyeballs and eyelashes, with widely dilated pupils; stridor dentium; trismus; frothing at the mouth and nose, mixed with blood;* and occasionally, *violent and genuine epilepsy;* of which he had two paroxysms after I arrived, which was only about half an hour before he expired. The convulsive agitations were so powerful and incessant, that I could not examine his pulse with sufficient constancy to ascertain its character. Very soon after dissolution, and sometime before the natural warmth had become extinct, the limbs became remarkably rigid. With a view to empty the stomach, I attempted to get down Pulv. Ipecac in warm water, in which, although I succeeded tolerably well, yet I could not possibly excite vomiting,